

Spring 1-15-2005

ENG 2009G-001: Literature and human values: Race, Age, Gender

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Recommended Citation

Sylvia, Richard, "ENG 2009G-001: Literature and human values: Race, Age, Gender" (2005). *Spring 2005*. 64.
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English 2009G - 001: Literature and Human Values (Race, Age, Gender)

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm; CH 3691

Spring 2005

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 8:30 – 9:00 am; 3:30 – 4:00 pm; and by appt.

Phone: 581-6292 (office); 351-1731 (home); 840-1194 (cell)

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Course Description, Design, and Goals: English 2009G is a writing intensive course centered on literary representations of race, age, and gender – three important modern concepts of self-definition. We will read several writers (all American except for Shakespeare) and analyze the place these issues have in their work. To improve our analytical skills – one of the important goals of the course -- we will spend class time discussing the assigned readings and the issues they raise. We will also write in response to the readings on a regular basis, both in class and out of class. The goal is to improve, with practice, our reading and thinking skills, as we learn from some of our best writers how issues of race, age, and gender can influence the development of the individual.

Texts: Hughes, *The Big Sea*Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*Shakespeare, *King Lear*Olsen, *Tell Me A Riddle*Conarroe, ed. *Six American Poets*Gelpi, *Adrienne Rich's Poetry and Prose***Requirements and Grading:**

- 1) completion of two essays (minimum 750 words each), one of which requires use of secondary sources – 30%
- 2) weekly in-class written responses to assigned readings – 30%
- 3) mid-term and final exam – 30%
- 4) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings – 10%

(You must complete successfully **all** the work listed above to pass the course.)

Course Policies: I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, speak to me before it is due. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

You cannot make up missed in-class writing assignments.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, but not required. In-class writing assignments are not announced, and cannot be made up.

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit an essay from this class for your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Tentative Schedule

Jan. 11: introduction to course; in-class writing

Jan. 13: Hughes, *The Big Sea*, I

Jan. 18: *The Big Sea*, II

Jan. 20: *The Big Sea*; selections from *The Souls of Black Folk* (handout)

Jan. 25: Hughes, poems from *Six American Poets*

Jan. 27: Hughes, poems from *Six American Poets*

Feb. 1: Hughes, poems from *Six American Poets*

Feb. 3: Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, chpts. 1-6

Feb. 8: Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, chpts. 7-13

Feb. 10: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, chpts. 14-20

Feb. 15: Hurston, from *Dust Tracks on a Road* (handout);

Feb. 17: Olsen, "O Yes" (*Tell Me a Riddle*); **essay #1 due**

Feb. 22: Olsen, *Tell Me a Riddle* 1, 2

Feb. 24: *Tell Me a Riddle* 3, 4

Mar. 1: **mid-term exam**

Mar. 3: Frost, poems from *Six American Poets*

Mar. 8: Frost

Mar. 10: Frost

Mar. 15, 17: Spring Break

Mar. 22: Shakespeare, *King Lear* 1

Mar. 24: *King Lear* 2, 3

Mar. 29: *King Lear* 4, 5

Mar. 31: Rich, poems pp. 1-28

Apr. 5: Rich, poems pp. 29-60

Apr. 7: Rich, poems pp. 60-100

Apr. 12: Rich, poems pp. 101-127

Apr. 14: Rich, poems pp. 131-161

Apr. 19: reading – to be announced; **essay #2 due**

Apr. 21: to be announced

Apr. 26: to be announced

Apr. 28: to be announced

The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 10:15 – 12:15 pm.